



Environmental Dashboard



Trends in New Hampshire's Environment Coastal Waters: Eelgrass Cover

Eelgrass is an underwater habitat at the base of the estuarine food web. Healthy eelgrass beds filter water and stabilize sediments and provide habitat for fish and shellfish. While eelgrass is only one species in the estuary, the presence of eelgrass is critical for the survival of many species. Therefore, trends in the amount of eelgrass habitat in the estuary are an important condition indicator.

Current Conditions

http://www.prep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/2013%20SOOE/SOOE_2013_FA2.pdf

Explanation of Indicator and Trend

DES collaborates with the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) to study changes in the amount of eelgrass in the Great Bay Estuary over time. The current condition can be found in the *2013 State of Our Estuaries Report*.

How Does DES Address This?

DES is working to understand the non-point sources of nitrogen in the watershed and develop efficient strategies to reduce nitrogen loads to the estuary in order to restore eelgrass habitat.

For More Information, Including What You Can Do to Help

Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

[<http://prepestuaries.org>]

DES Shellfish Program

[<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/shellfish/index.htm>]

Great Bay Estuary [<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/great-bay-estuary.htm>]

NH Coastal Program

[<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/index.htm>]

Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

[<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/nonpoint/index.htm>]

NH Clean Vessel Act Program

[<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/cva/index.htm>]

Pet Waste Campaign: Scoop the Poop

[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/scoop_the_poop.htm]